

Sept 20, 2005

Wenham Board of Selectmen  
Bessie Buker School Multi Media Room  
September 6, 2005 ~7:30 PM

Selectmen Present: Tom Tanous Chair; Peter Hersee; Don Pickard,  
Also Present: Jeff Chelgren, Town Administrator; Paul Weaver, Town Counsel; Catherine  
Tinsley, Secretary

Mr. Tanous opened the meeting at 7:33 PM.

Noting that there were no questions from the public, he introduced Representative Brad Hill.

Mr. Hill addressed the BOS, responding to a request from the Town regarding the licensing process that would allow the Wenham Tea House to sell liquor. He told the BOS that M.G.L. Chapters 57, 59, 61 and the acts of 2003 that relate to liquor licenses were recently passed for the Town of Topsfield and he presented copies of said chapters to the BOS. Mr. Hill identified that the Topsfield license is for a liquor store, restaurants seating fewer than 100 patrons, and a one day liquor license for public events. He went on to identify that the first step is to forward a petition to Legislature to be filed by Senator Brad Hill and himself, which will be followed by a public hearing. After that, he said that it would go to the floor of the House and through the Senate and finally to the Governor for his signature. Mr. Hill said that this is a long process, taking up to a year, but said that the process can be expedited.

Mr. Tanous said that the BOS will seek town approval at either a regular May town meeting or a special town meeting, depending on the timing.

Mr. Hill went on to say that although not necessary, a ballot vote can be held as it was in Topsfield and Rockport, explaining that this was done for political purposes only.

Brad Hill, the BOS and the Town Counsel discussed wording possibilities for a liquor license application, private club laws and potential options to be included in the application wording.

Representative Hill updated the BOS regarding the Route 97, Maple Street intersection traffic light saying that recently he met with Wenham's Department of Public Works Director and the officials of Mass Highways Department to be sure that all the parties involved were moving forward. He identified that the design phase is 75% complete. He announced that a public hearing will be held in the near future at the library.

Mr. Hill went on to note that the design calls for alterations to the intersection, additional pavement and the removal of up to five trees.

He told the BOS that there is a serious need to fund the project and that he and Senator Bruce Tarr will continue working towards getting the financing from the State.

Mr. Tanous thanked Mr. Hill for the work he and Bruce Tarr have been doing, and continue to do, to get the project done.

Sidewalks -

Mr. Hill then told the Selectmen that there are currently no programs at the State level to assist towns with the cost of building sidewalks. He expressed his personal disappointment with this and noted the immediate importance of sidewalks because of the cuts to many

school transportation programs. He said that he is pursuing options for funding the sidewalk along Route 22 (Grapevine Road) especially since this is a State route that is also used by local college students.

Mr. Hill said that the Governor announced today that 25 million dollars was approved to aid Katrina's hurricane victims and that Edwards /Otis A.F.B. has been open to provide housing needs, adding that 250 people are expected to arrive at Edwards /Otis A.F.B. tonight or tomorrow.

He announced that they will be looking for volunteers to help out and that donations such as sport items, televisions and computers are needed.

#### Town Meeting

*Mr. Hersee moved to close the warrant for the special town meeting. Mr. Pickard seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.*

Mr. Chelgren reported that Town Counsel has reviewed the wording of the warrant articles for the special town meeting in October.

Comments on the articles from the Town Counselor were discussed. Article 4 was discussed in detail. Town Counsel was present and noted that article 4 is still under review but that it needs definitive figures added to the motion before it can be brought to town meeting. He also said that the proponents of article 4 need to be informed that this article needs to pass by a 2/3 vote.

John Darling, Chair of the Building Committee was present and told the BOS that the figures for article 1 to approve slight alterations to the design and for additional financing will be available for town meeting.

The Town Counsel noted concerns with the wording of Article 4 regarding the use of CPA (Community Preservation Act) for renovations of the town hall.

Mr. Chelgren identified that the next BOS meeting on Sept 22, 2005 the Selectmen will discuss the final wording of the articles.

Mr. Tanous announced that the last day to register to vote at the special town meeting will be Friday, September 23, 2005.

*Mr. Pickard moved that the Town of Wenham proclaim October 24, 2005 as United Nations Day in honor of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations.*

*Mr. Hersee seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.*

#### Iron Rail Lease

Mr. Chelgren said that the Iron Rail Gymnastics is up to date with their 2005 lease payments and have submitted a payment plan for consideration for 2006.

The BOS will proceed with discussion of the lease and the options to the town in an executive session.

Mr. Hersee said, however, that he is not in favor of selling the building at this time, no matter what happens with the current lease.

Mr. Tanous and Mr. Pickard both said that they agreed with Mr. Hersee.

The BOS will review the FY07 budget timeline and the personnel review timelines.

Mr. Tanous announced that Acting Police Chief Ken Walsh was appointed Wenham Police Chief on August 31, 2005.

Mr. Chelgren announced that the BOS is meeting with the Finance and Advisory Committee in public session on Saturday, September 10, 2005 in the Recreation Building at 10 AM,

Mr. Pickard announced that the Wenham Police Department has a new web site and credited Officer John Gray for putting the web site together in four days. He noted that the web site includes the Amber Alert, how to contact the WPD and other information.

#### MINUTES

Mr. Chelgren confirmed that BOS minutes are up to date on the Town's web page.

*Mr. Hersee moved to approve the Wenham Board of Selectmen regular meeting minutes on August 23, 2005 with edits as indicated. Mr. Pickard seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.*

*Mr. Hersee moved that the BOS approve the executive session meeting minutes of August 23, 2005 with edits as indicated.*

*Mr. Pickard seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.*

Fire Chief Perkins was present and stated that the Wenham Fire Department has received a grant from FEMA for \$79,000.00 to purchase and put into service a brush truck for the town. He identified that this will replace the 1980 highway pickup truck that was transformed into a brush truck.

Chief Perkins added that the Firefighter Company matched the 5% required, at no cost to the town. He told the BOS that there is a lot of brush in the area and that this vehicle will service and assist local towns with brush fires as well as Wenham.

*8:35 PM - Mr. Pickard moved to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations and personnel matters and to include in the discussions Chief Walsh, Fire Chief Perkins, Deputy Fire Chief Blanchard and to return to open session for the purpose of adjournment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hersee and approved by roll call vote.*

*9:25 PM - Mr. Hersee moved to return to open session. The motion was approved by roll call vote.*

*Mr. Hersee moved to adjourn and it was unanimous to do so.*